

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to make editorial changes therein, and the claims have been amended as to form bearing in mind the objection in the Official Action, to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-13 were pending and claims 14-16 have been added, leaving claims 1-16 for consideration.

Claims 1-4 and 7-8 were rejected as anticipated by BUTLER 4,671,025. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is directed to an embodiment of the present invention that includes pairs of first roof surfaces in succession in a transverse direction, where each pair of first roof surfaces runs at an angle to a respective first common apex, and pairs of second roof surfaces in succession in a longitudinal direction, where each pair of second roof surfaces runs at an angle to a respective second common apex.

BUTLER does not disclose pairs of first roof surfaces in succession in a transverse direction, where each pair of first roof surfaces runs at an angle to a respective first common apex. The Official Action points to surfaces 21-25 as the first roof surfaces. However, a pair of these surfaces (e.g., surfaces 21 and 22) do not meet at a common apex. Further, these are not "roof surfaces" at all; they are vertical wall surfaces (as is

apparent from Figure 2 that shows a plan view of the roof surfaces). Indeed, since they are all vertical surfaces, surfaces 21-25 cannot meet at any apex. BUTLER also does not disclose pairs of second roof surfaces in succession in a longitudinal direction. The Official Action points to surfaces 26-38 as the second roof surfaces, but these are in succession in a transverse direction, not a longitudinal direction.

Alternatively, if the roof surfaces 26-38 are considered the first roof surfaces, then BUTLER does not disclose the second roof surfaces in succession in a longitudinal direction, where each pair of second roof surfaces runs at an angle to a respective second common apex. Surfaces 21-25 do not form pairs that meet at respective common apexes and are not in succession in the longitudinal direction. Further, surfaces 21-25 are vertical wall surfaces.

Since BUTLER does not disclose all of the limitations of claim 1, claims 1-6 are believed to be allowable.

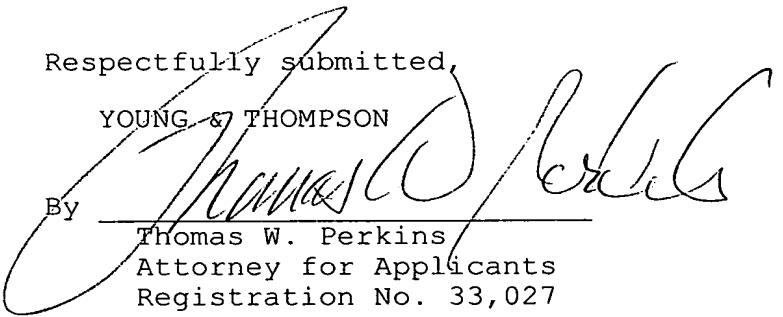
Claims 5-6 and 9-13 were rejected as unpatentable over BUTLER. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested in view of the comments above.

New claim 15 is directed to an embodiment of the present invention, such as illustrated in Figure 1. The roof includes a pair of first roof surfaces (5, 6, element numbers added by way of explanation, not by way of limitation) that meet at a first common apex (9) extending in a first direction (L),

where the first roof surfaces slope obliquely relative to a horizontal. Each of the first roof surfaces is formed by plural pairs of second roof surfaces (12, 13) that slope obliquely relative to the horizontal, wherein the pairs of second roof surfaces meet at respective second common apexes (16) that are parallel to each other and transverse to the first direction. BUTLER does not disclose that first roof surfaces are formed by plural pairs of second roof surfaces that meet at respective second common apexes that are parallel to each other and transverse to the first direction, and thus the new claims are believed to be allowable.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (amended) [Greenhouse] A greenhouse (1,28)

comprising:

(10)

a transparent roof construction (2,29) with a
longitudinal direction (L) and a transverse direction (D) located
perpendicularly thereto, having [various] plural pairs of first (34,31)
roof surfaces (5,6,7,8,36,37) in succession in the transverse (36,47)
direction (D), the first roof surfaces of a predetermined pair
running at an angle (θ) with respect to a horizontal from a
respective first base edge (11,11',11",30,33) oriented in the
longitudinal direction (L) of the greenhouse to a first common
apex (9,10,38), [characterised in that] (A₁-A₈)

wherein the greenhouse is provided with pairs of successive second roof surfaces (12,13,14,15;34,35) in the longitudinal direction (L), [which] the second roof surfaces [extend] of a predetermined pair extending at an angle (γ) with respect to the horizontal from a respective second base edge (18,19,20,21;31,32) oriented in the transverse direction (D) of the greenhouse to a second common apex (16,17,38).

Claim 2 has been amended as follows:

2. (amended) [Greenhouse] The greenhouse (28)

according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein four

mutually adjoining perpendicular base edges (30,31,32,33) each time delimit a rectangle, wherein the rectangles extend successively in the longitudinal direction (L) and the transverse direction (D) of the roof construction and wherein, for each rectangle, first and second pairs of roof surfaces (34,35,36,37) extend from the base edges (30,31,32,33) to a common apex (38) located above the rectangle concerned.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. (amended) [Greenhouse] The greenhouse (1) according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the pairs of first roof surfaces (5,6,7,8) are in contact with one another along edges at the first common apex (9,10), wherein the first base edges (11,11',11'') and the edges at the first common apex (9,10) of the pairs of first roof surfaces (5,6,7,8) extend parallel to one another in the longitudinal direction (L); wherein the pairs of second roof surfaces (12,13,14,15) are in contact with one another along edges at the second common apex (16,17) and wherein the second base edges (18,19,20,21) and the edges at the second common apex (16,17) of the second pairs of roof surfaces (12,13,14,15) extend parallel to one another from a base edge (11,11',11'') of a first roof surface (5,6,7,8) to the edge at the first common apex (9,10) of the first roof surface concerned.

Claim 4 has been amended as follows:

4. (twice amended) [Greenhouse] The greenhouse (1, 28) according to claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the roof surfaces (52, 53, 54, 55) are of doubled-wall construction, having a base sheet (51, 73, 74) and transverse links (58, 59, 75, 76, 77) between the points of the apexes and/or the base edges (60, 61, 62, 63, 78, 79) of the roof surfaces and the base sheet.

Claim 5 has been amended as follows:

5. (twice amended) [Greenhouse] The greenhouse (1, 28) according to Claim 3, [characterised in that] wherein a distance (d_2 , d_3 , d_4) between the second base edges (18, 19, 20, 21, 78, 79) of the pairs of second roof surfaces (12, 13, 14, 15, 71, 72) is between 0.5 and 0.001 times the distance (d_1) between the first base edges (11, 11', 11'') of the pairs of first roof surfaces (5, 6, 7, 8).

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6. (twice amended) [Greenhouse] The greenhouse (1, 28) according to Claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein a perpendicular distance (h_2 , h_5) between the edge at the apex (16, 17, 27, 28) and the second base edges (18, 19, 20, 21, 60, 61, 62, 63) of the pairs of second roof surfaces is between 0.5 and 0.001 times the perpendicular distance between the edge at the apex (9,

10) and the first base edges (11, 11', 11'') of the pairs of the first roof surfaces (5, 6, 7, 8).

Claim 7 has been amended as follows:

7. (amended) [Roof] A roof element (50,80) for use in a greenhouse, [provided with various] comprising plural pairs of roof surfaces (52,53,54,55,82,83) in succession in a transverse direction (D) and a base sheet (51,81), wherein the roof surfaces of a predetermined pair run at an angle (θ) with respect to the base sheet from a base edge (60,61,62,63,86,88) oriented in a longitudinal direction (L) to a common apex (56,57,90), which roof surfaces (52,53,54,55,82,83) are joined to the base sheet along the base edges and/or at the location of the apex.

Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

8. (amended) [Roof] The roof element (80) according to Claim 7, [characterised in that] wherein the roof element is furthermore provided with pairs of second roof surfaces (84,85) in succession in a longitudinal direction (L) which run at an angle with respect to the base sheet (81) from a base edge (87,89) oriented in a transverse direction (D) to a common apex (90), wherein four base edges (86,87,88,89) perpendicular to one another always delimit a rectangle, wherein the rectangles extend successively in the longitudinal direction (L) and the transverse direction (D) of the base sheet (81) and wherein, for each

rectangle, first and second pairs of roof surfaces (82,83,84,85) extend from the base edges (86,87,88,89) to a common apex (90) located above the rectangle concerned.

Claim 9 has been amended as follows:

9. (twice amended) [Roof] The roof element (50, 80) according to Claim 7, [characterized in that] wherein a distance between the base sheet (51, 81) and the apex (56, 57, 90) is between 1cm and 10cm[, preferably between 1.5cm and 3cm].

Claim 10 has been amended as follows:

10. (twice amended) [Roof] The roof element (50, 80) [between (50, 80)] according to Claim 7, [characterized in that the] wherein a distance (d_3 , d_4) between the base edges is between 1cm and 10cm[, preferably between 1.5cm and 3cm].

Claim 11 has been amended as follows:

11. (twice amended) [Roof] The roof element (50, 80) according to Claim 7, [characterized in that] wherein the angle (θ) of the roof surfaces is [beteen] between 30° and 75° [, preferably between 45° and 75°].

Claim 12 has been amended as follows:

12. (twice amended) [Roof] The roof element (50, 80) according to Claim 7, [characterized in that] wherein the roof

element consists of one piece and is made from transparent plastic having a wall thickness of between 0.5mm and 5mm[, preferably between 0.5mm and 2mm].

Claim 13 has been amended as follows:

13. (twice amended) [Roof] The roof element (76, 77) according to Claim 7, [characterized in that] wherein the roof element is provided with coupling means (78, 79) for joining to a similar roof element.